

Update on Israel

AIDS Quilt

On the World Health Organization's World AIDS Day, December 1, 200 panels from the Names Project International AIDS Memorial Quilt were displayed in the Tel Aviv City Hall. Among the sponsors of the Israel display were the Israel AIDS Task Force, the Society for Protection of Personal Rights, various hospitals, physicians, and the municipalities of Tel Aviv, Haifa, Nazareth and Jerusalem.

I had the pleasure of attending the opening, which was addressed by Tel Aviv's Mayor Lahat, who called for an end to the ignorance and prejudice associated with AIDS. The quilt and its messages of education and compassion were widely heard throughout Israel as *Common Threads*, an effective AIDS education program (subtitled in Hebrew), was aired on Israeli national television, and extensive publicity appeared in Israeli newspapers.

With 180 diagnosed cases and an estimated 4,000 HIV-positive in Israel, this first-ever visit of the quilt to the Middle East seemed to awaken the Israeli government officials to the necessity of meaningfully addressing the AIDS situation. Kupat Cholim, the government

Continued on page 8

President's Column

Save Our Synagogue

You may have noticed in last month's *Forward* an uncharacteristically large front-page headline: "Budget Deficit." This is no joke; we are currently facing the prospect of ending our fiscal year in June with a deficit of as much as \$26,000. A deficit of \$26,000 would not mean simply that we spent a little too much money. It would mean that our General Fund reserves would be wiped out and we would be literally broke.

The Va'ad has voted to accept a solution to our fiscal crisis that was developed by the joint efforts of the Finance Committee and current and past officers and committee chairs. This plan includes a more responsible dues policy to assure our long-term future, as well as measures to deal with this year's projected deficit. According to our by-laws, this proposed plan must be voted on by the congregation in order to be instituted.

By now, members should have received notices about the special congregational meeting to take place on January 6. The decisions made at this meeting will mark a very important turning point in our communal life. We are anxious to maintain our historic

identity as a synagogue that is open and accessible. Yet in order for that structure to survive, it must, in turn, be supported by those it serves. Please read the materials that were sent to you with the notice about the special meeting. Your presence and your vote are crucial to ensure a long and healthy future for Sha'ar Zahav.

—Merry Lusk

Important Notice To Our Readers

***This will be the last
monthly newsletter
for the next six months.***

The *Forward* will publish bi-monthly (an issue in March and May). A calendar of events will be mailed to members and subscribers in February, April and June.

For those of you who receive our newsletter on a complementary basis, please consider subscribing by sending \$12 to the office.



CSZ Chanukah Party 1990: (l) Rabbi Kahn officiating at the menorah lighting; (r) co-chairs Gary Glasser and Shirley Liberman, with Phil Charney (r) sampling the latkes before the festivities. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL BETTINGER

Our Evolving Siddur

Rabbi Chaim Stern, the distinguished Reform liturgist, has called the prayerbook "the spiritual autobiography" of the Jewish people. His introduction to *Gates of Prayer*, the successor to the beautiful and beloved Union Prayerbook, speaks of the challenge each generation has faced in building a common language of worship: "There are divisions among us; some are matters of principle and others relate to style. And yet, at root, we remain united in our yearning for transcendence, in our hope for peace and human friendship. All of us, in our reflective moments, continue to look beneath the surface of our lives, hoping for light, strength, eternal—or at least durable—purpose. Our people's modes of worship are many and various, but we are at one in attempting, through worship, to express our deepest selves."

His description of the purpose of worship is true for us at CSZ. His description of the sometimes conflicting claims and disagreements with which the contributors to *Gates of Prayer* struggled resonate for me. In fact, Rabbi Stern's short introduction is so convincing I found myself wondering: why is it that we have insisted on creating our own prayerbooks? And why, oh why, is the Ritual Committee planning a new one?

The earliest liturgy of Sha'ar Zahav consisted of photostated pages from traditional prayerbooks, with sexist and gender specific references to people and God whited out. Today, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, publisher of *Gates of Prayer*, is beginning work on a successor volume; it will not be published for almost a decade. In the meantime, the conference is considering an interim reprinting of *Gates of Prayer* with degenderized language. When our congregation was founded, there was no published liturgy with non-sexist language, so Sha'ar Zahav members wrote their own.

Important as it is, this is not the only distinguishing quality of our liturgy. Our early service leaders included explicit references to gay and lesbian people and lives in our liturgy. Today, some of those passages seem dated: "We have come here for rest ... from the effort of appearing straight in a straight world"; others timeless: "We remember our gay

sisters and brothers who were martyred in years past ... and those struck down in our own city, in our own time." No liturgy besides our own fully reflects who we are and what we might be.

We are a Reform synagogue but many of our liturgical customs are not standard practice in most Reform congregations. The goal of creating a prayerbook which can speak to different worshippers who want to honor diverse personal traditions *at the same service* has been an ongoing challenge. Finally, our liturgy is unique because so much of our prayerbooks have been written and edited by members of our congregation.

Our current Friday night prayerbook has been in continuous use for almost 10 years. In the life of the Jewish people, a decade is a mere blink of an eye; in the life of a young synagogue, it is an epoch. Our Friday night *siddur* was a work of love and dedication; it has served us well. But some of its readings are tired; they have lost their power to speak to us as they once did. We have changed our practices in some ways over the last decade; these changes should be reflected in our written liturgy. Our congregation has grown immensely in recent years and our spirituality has deepened and changed; the voices and themes of today should be integrated into our *siddur* alongside the enduring prayers and themes of our tradition.

The Ritual Committee has begun preliminary planning for the writing, editing and publication of a new Friday night *siddur*. Further plans will be announced in coming months. This next *siddur* will hardly be entirely new; it will draw from our tradition: the traditional prayerbook, Reform liturgy and the existing *siddurim* of our congregation. It will be, in Chaim Stern's words, our own "distinctive chapter" in the spiritual autobiography of the Jewish people. The earlier chapters of this beloved book, the Jewish prayerbook, is the subject of my winter class, "Prayers and Prayerbooks," which begins on January 29. Details are in the announcement on page 5. I hope you will join me for this exciting exploration of our past as a prelude to writing our future.

—Rabbi Yoel Kahn

Naches

To Yael Silverberg-Willis and Luana Willis-Silverberg for appearing on the *Donahue* TV show, and being featured on the cover of *Ceremonies of the Heart*.

To Howard Blechman for his new job working with Quantum Consulting in Berkeley.

To Richard Inlander on his new position with the Court of Appeal, Central Staff.

To Dr. Donald Abrams on being a recipient of the Assistant Secretary of Health Award from the U.S. Public Health Service.

To Rosalinda del Moral on acquiring her first-ever driver's license on this planet. Happy trails to you!

The Jewish Gaily Forward is published by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, (415) 861-6932. Permission to reproduce material is freely given, and credit would be appreciated.

Members of the Congregation receive the *Forward*. For a donation of \$12/year, non-members will receive the *Forward*.

All newsletter copy should be typed, double-spaced and is due no later than the date of the Va'ad meeting. It should be sent to the synagogue office, marked to the attention of the *Forward*. All material is subject to editing; material will not be returned.

Members of the Newsletter Committee are Howard Blechman, chair, Leonard Brill, Irene Ogus, Alita Rosenfeld, Lane Schickler and Robin Leonard (general editorial and production), Michael Bettinger (photographer), Rick Wilson (advertising coordinator), Elliot Gordon, Frank Hyman, Alex Ingersoll, Sam Thal, Lin Turner, Eli Weinstein and Ron Wilmot (distribution). The *Forward* is typeset by David Lester, Mouse Type Inc., and printed by Lou Greene.

Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for non-members and \$10 per column inch for members, with discounts available for size and frequency. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads are \$5 for up to 20 words, plus \$1 for each 10 additional words. No personals accepted.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, marked attention *Forward* advertising. The advertising deadline is the second Monday of the month. The *Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste.

Shabbat Shirah

Shabbat Shirah, January 26, is the occasion this year at CSZ for a Shabbat-long celebration and study of women's voices. Come and join Rabbi Kahn and Kathy Simon for our Shabbat morning service starting at 10:30. This service will include a Torah study (led by Susan Sobel-Feldman) of women's songs: Song of Deborah (Shabbat Shirah Haftorah), Song of Miriam and Song of Judith.

Morning services will be followed by a vegetarian potluck, with desserts by Susan Sobel-Feldman (call her at 668-2272 to volunteer your own luscious contribution to this repast) and some post-prandial singing. We will then retire to the "study house" for an afternoon of lively discussion led by Rabbi Kahn and Susan Sobel-Feldman on "Women's Voices: Songs of History, Songs of Change." Our Shabbat celebration will conclude with Havdalah, held outside if weather permits. Call the office for child care information.

On Friday evening, January 25, Rabbi Kahn's sermon will discuss Jewish feminist theologian Judith Plaskow's new book, *Standing Again at Sinai*.

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Anniversaries

- 12/6 Susan Beth Fraimow-Wong & Linda Fraimow-Wong
- 12/14 Shelley R. Spiro & Gabriele Kassner
- 12/28 Shelley Adler & Susan Weinstein
- 12/31 Florence Nacamulli & Steven Nacamulli
- 1/1 M. Paul Schwartz & Phillip Gomez
- 2/10 Robert Nacamulli & Lorraine Locke-Nacamulli
- 2/14 Joan Lefkowitz & Stacey Shuster
- 2/23 Yael Silverberg-Willis & Luana Willis

Building Work Party

We are holding a building work party on Sunday, January 27 from 1:30 to 5:30. Here's your chance to get involved in a hands-on way with our synagogue! Bring your work gloves, tool box and ideas.

The following are some of the projects we will be working on: installing of pew cushion plaques, trimming ivy outside of the oneg room, pruning shrubbery on the side of the sanctuary, and replacing dead light bulbs. We also will be reviewing a new set of building rules and regulations to be submitted to the Va'ad. Come join this effort.

—Jeffrey Miller, Chair
Building Committee

This year...
please pay your dues
pledge promptly!

Consul's Husband To Speak at Services

Meir Azari, an Israeli rabbinic student at Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR) in Jerusalem, will speak at Shabbat services on Friday, January 18. Former executive director of the Reform movement in Israel, Meir is now living and studying in San Francisco, where his wife, Anna Azari, is consul of Israel. HUC-JIR is the seminary of the Reform movement and a portion of our UAHC dues goes directly to its support. As further information we note that CSZ member Leslie Bergson is currently in her first year of rabbinical school at HUC-JIR in Jerusalem.

New Israel Fund Director at CSZ

After services on Friday evening, January 25, Gila Svirskey, director in Israel of the New Israel Fund, will speak on "Lesbian and Gay Organizing in Israel." Ms. Svirskey has been a political activist for many years, and director of the NIF in Israel since 1985. Her writing has appeared in the *Jerusalem Post* and *Sinister Wisdom*. Ms. Svirskey will be at CSZ as part of her national speaking tour "From the Ground Up: Reflections on a Decade of Social Change in Israel." The New Israel Fund is a joint effort by Israelis and North Americans to strengthen democracy in Israel. The fund believes that ensuring Israel's peaceful and healthy future requires a society dedicated to equality, pluralism and the rule of law. Since its founding in 1980, the fund has provided funding and technical assistance to more than 150 voluntary organizations in Israel that promote civil and human rights and work to bridge social and economic gaps. The Society for the Protection of Personal Rights, Israel's primary gay and lesbian rights organization, and the Israeli AIDS Task Force are beneficiaries of the New Israel Fund.

New Members

Michael Eisman
Jack Jacobs and Neil Newbarth
Jazz Duberman
Michelle Dickstein
Marc Cohen

Join us for
Shabbat Dinner
at Sha'ar Zahav

Friday, January 25
Friday, February 22
at 6:30 pm

Note new lower prices:

\$9 for members
\$15 for non-members
\$5 for children

Limited seating

Reservations must be received
no later than the Monday before

Call the synagogue office
to make reservations and
specify either meat or vegetarian

All meals kosher



Contributions

Sha'ar Zahav welcomes all contributions, of all sizes, to mark any event, and to any of our funds. Contributions will be acknowledged in the *Forward* unless requested otherwise.

Donations were made to Sha'ar Zahav's funds in the past months by the following contributors:

General Fund

We encourage donations to the General Fund to help offset our budget deficit.

Dvora Hongstein, in loving memory of Adam Hongstein

Irene Ogus, in memory of Enoch Harrison, whose enthusiasm and love for our congregation will be long remembered

Harry Trueman and Edna Trueman

Jonathan Schwartz, in memory of Morris Schwartz

Richard Inlander, in honor of Rosalinda del Moral's driver's license

Richard Inlander, in honor of the Walentas' new home

Eric Keitel and Aaron Cooper, in honor of the friendship of Fran Cogen

Betty Kalis, in memory of Steven Trentman

Debra Kent Friedland, in celebration of the official adoption of their children, Jordy and May Haur-Laurencin by Laurie's partner and co-parent, Grace

Ellen Elias, in honor of her friendship with Eric Keitel and Aaron Cooper

Jane Graeven, to welcome Tsipora, daughter of Oran and Rena

Steve Elman and Tom Holt, in honor of Jonathan Goldman on his 40th birthday

Jonathan Funk, in memory of Catherine Dodd's grandmother

Steve Elman and Tom Holt, in honor of Jerry Hipps on his 40th birthday

Eric Keitel and Aaron Cooper, in honor of the birth of Ora and Rena's baby

Eric Keitel and Aaron Cooper, in honor of the friendship of Nancy Stageberg

AIDS Fund

Helene Romaine, in honor of her brother, Robert H. Cohen

Building Fund

Jeffery Miller, in honor of Alex Ingersoll for his wisdom, patience and support

Richard Inlander, in memory of Enoch Harrison, who took such loving care of our building

Children's Fund

Susan Stahl, for the mitzvah of assisting Lori Feldman and Marcia Baum in the delivery of their baby, Maya

Children's Education Fund

Richard Inlander, honoring Jack Darr for his devoted service to the Boy Scouts

Education Fund

Marion Trentman, in memory of her friend, Dr. Robert Hofstedter

Susan Greenspan, mazel tov to Roberta Achtenberg and family on winning a seat on the Board of Supervisors

Susan Greenspan, in beloved memory of two special parents and friends, Udis Kupferman and Dr. Saul Kupferman

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Rabbi Ira Youdovin, with heartfelt thanks for the wonderful Shabbat at CSZ

Robert Coffman, in honor of Rabbi Kahn

Sanctuary Fund

Jay Ladin, Christine Benevuto

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Birthdays

1/1 Steven James Hanely
1/4 Maggie Rochlin
1/6 Nathan R.
1/6 Scott Mezistrano
1/8 Carol Heller
1/9 Max Rossoff Nichols
1/11 Ellen Giersen
1/12 Florence Nacamulli
1/12 Tiela Chalmers
1/13 Amy Paula Blasenheim
1/19 Mike Rankin
1/20 Eileen Linda Lynette
1/21 Johanna Johnson
1/23 Julia Carol Hanely
1/25 Dana Lear
1/25 Beth Tiana Berkelhammer
1/25 Neil E. Hart
1/27 Maacah M.
1/30 Aaron Cooper
1/30 Ruth A.
2/5 Ami Zusman
2/7 Mark Mendelow
2/7 Ida Joan Kuluk
2/8 Sue Saperstein
2/9 Mark Freeman
2/10 Joshua Piazza
2/10 Daniel Jeremy Bonett
2/10 Audrey Adelson
2/11 Robert Stern
2/11 Simone Gelfand
2/12 Joan Lefkowitz
2/13 Howard Blechman
2/14 Susan Douglass
2/14 Irene Ogus
2/14 Ron Wolberg
2/14 Susan Unger
2/15 Russell Discher
2/17 Yael Silverberg-Willis
2/17 Barry D. Siegel
2/18 Robert Coffman
2/21 Sandra Lofchie
2/21 Marta Judy Friedman
2/22 Gail Friedlander
2/22 Susan Tubbesing
2/23 Hal Heller
2/25 Alex Ingersoll
2/25 Nathan Nahouraii
2/25 Earl Diskin
2/26 Laura Susan Stuchinsky
2/27 Leila Raim
2/28 Steven Gaynes

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav Tu B'Shevat Tree Planting and Celebration

The New Year of the Trees
A joyous festival celebrating
the renewal of nature
Saturday, February 2
9:30 am - 2 pm
Joaquin Miller Park, Oakland

Plant a tree — it's a mitzvah!

Bring your family • Bring your friends • Bring yourself
Children's programs • Adult programs • Family programs
Seder with traditional foods • Songs • Israeli dancing

Pot Luck Lunch!

If your last name begins with ...
A-H ... bring a salad
I-N ... bring a main course
O-Z ... bring a dessert

Please bring your own beverages, plates and utensils

Planning to join us?

Please call Elliot at 252-1253 by January 28 for directions
No charge for this event • Carpooling available • RSVP

Sponsored by the Adult Education Committee
and the Children's Chavurah

Adult Education

The following classes are being offered by the Adult Education Committee in co-sponsorship with Lehrhaus Judaica and SFJCC:

- **Continuing Prayerbook Hebrew**—Phyllis Mintzer, instructor; 10 sessions, Wednesdays, January 30–April 3, 7:15 pm–8:30 pm

A continuation of our introductory course which took place in the fall semester. The course teaches the essentials of Biblical and prayerbook Hebrew. The goal is basic competence in reading as well as understanding the root meanings of words in the Hebrew texts found in weekly religious services. Fees: CSZ members \$20; SFJCC members \$40; non-members \$60.

- **Modern Jewish Philosophies**—Phyllis Mintzer, instructor; 10 sessions, Wednesdays, January 30–April 3, 8:30 pm–9:45 pm

Explore the different approaches of the major movements within modern Judaism to basic philosophical questions. Readings include excerpts from the writing of Heschel, Borowitz and Mordechai Kaplan. A course for Jews and non-Jews who want to enrich their basic knowledge of Judaism. Fees: CSZ members \$20; SFJCC members \$40; non-members \$60.

- **Prayers and Prayerbooks: Siddur and Haggadah**—Rabbi Yoel Kahn, instructor; six sessions, Tuesdays, January 29–March 5, 7:45 pm–9:15 pm

This class will explore the texts and meaning of prayer for Jewish communities at different times in our history as conveyed by the structure, contents and design of prayerbooks. We will consider both ancient, medieval and modern examples. What is the relationship between the worshipper and the text? How does a community express its values and define its boundaries through its liturgy? The first three sessions will be devoted

to the Siddur, the second three to the Passover Haggadah. CSZ members will be able to choose to take either the full six sessions or either the first or second set of three. Fees: CSZ members free; SFJCC members \$25; non-members \$35.

- **Kabbalah: The History of Jewish Mysticism and Meditation Practice**—Emily Leah Silverman, instructor; 10 sessions, Tuesdays, January 29–April 2, 7:30 pm–9 pm.

This course will explore the history of Jewish meditative practice from the early prophets to the new-age Jewish spiritual movement. We will use some of Aryeh Kaplan's books on Jewish meditations, along with primary texts from Jewish literature. One part of each class will be spent discussing and reading primary and secondary texts. The second part will be spent practicing different types of Jewish meditation techniques. Fees: CSZ members \$20; SFJCC members \$40; non-members \$60.

All classes will be held at the synagogue. In order to encourage greater participation in these classes, the Adult Education Committee is paying for half the fees for CSZ members only. You will only have to pay \$20 per course. Please call the office to reserve a place. Advance registration is strongly encouraged as space is limited.

In an agreement reached between the Adult Education Committee and the SFJCC program director, CSZ members will be charged SFJCC member fees for classes offered by SFJCC.

The Adult Education Committee is also sponsoring the Twice Blessed Workshop (see box on page 5), the Tu B'Shevat Celebration (see box on page 4) and, coming soon, the Camp Swig "Personalizing Passover" Weekend. We need volunteers; without your support these programs cannot take place. Please contact Elliot at 252-1253 to help.

Adult Education Committee
presents

Rabbi Yoel Kahn

The Theological and Historical Sources on Being Twice Blessed

Using traditional and contemporary texts, Rabbi Kahn will bring fresh insight to Jewish attitudes towards gays and lesbians. Havdalah service will follow the discussion.

**Saturday, January 19
12:30 pm**

CSZ Library • Refreshments

This event is open to non-members. Please invite your friends to attend and share this afternoon with us.

Rabbinic Aide Program

The UAHC offers a two-week summer program of intensive Jewish study and practical training. Graduates of the program return to their home congregation to assist the rabbi in a variety of capacities. The program meets in upstate New York in July or August. If you are interested in participating, please call Rabbi Kahn at the synagogue.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav Gift Shop

Gift shop hours:

First and third Tuesdays, 3–5 pm

Second and fourth Mondays, 7:30–10 pm

Fridays, 7:30–8:05 pm



You don't have to even think about Chanukah candles for another year, but remember to stock up on our other candles—Shabbat, havdalah and yahrzeit.

SPANISH LESSONS

☐ \$8 per hour



CASA HISPANA

861-1223

Rosalinda del Moral

Five Days in the "Old Country"

Sure there are homosexual rabbis. There probably always have been, and always will be. So why do they have to go public with it? Why don't they stay in the closet and not embarrass the rest of us!"

This helpful advice was offered by a member of the Board of Trustees of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations during a November 1989 debate on the ordination of gay and lesbian Jews as rabbis. The advice was rejected. A resolution urging ordination passed overwhelmingly, and a similar resolution was passed by Reform rabbis meeting in Seattle a few months later. Qualified gay and lesbian students are now admitted to the Hebrew Union College. Those who successfully complete their studies will be ordained.

This November 30, nearly a year after his speech at the New Orleans convention, the man quoted above and myself found ourselves seated next to each other at a Shabbat dinner in New York (the "old country" to many Sha'ar Zahavniks). We were there to attend a meeting of the UAHC Board of Trustees.

"How are things in your region?" I asked, trying for a neutral conversation starter. (He comes from a city several thousand miles from San Francisco. If he remembered we were on opposite sides during the debate, he didn't show it.)

"Things are fine," he replied. "The fastest growing temple in our area had a problem with their cantor, though. He's homosexual, and he wanted to bring his boyfriend to services. There was a fight, but his board and most of his congregation supported him. I hoped he'd get fed up and quit, so we could hire him for our synagogue. He's a wonderful cantor and educator. We were actually fighting with another synagogue for the chance to bring him on board, if he left 'Beth Elsewhere.' But he stayed. And do you know what his temple president said when a few people resigned? 'Now we know the price of integrity and fairness!' Wasn't that great!"

It was great. I explained that the cantor and his life partner of 10 years are friends of mine. They recently adopted a child, and wanted to join the congregation as a family. It was the issues of family membership, not a desire to

"bring a boyfriend to services," that caused the dispute.

"Sounds like you've changed your mind about gay cantors and rabbis," I said.

"I guess I have, haven't I?" he replied. "Probably because I've known and liked 'Cantor McGillicuty' for years, but I never knew he was gay until this summer. It made a difference, knowing a homosexual personally. And you say the argument was about his family joining the synagogue? How about that."

Our Shabbat dinner conversation was a highlight of the four days in Rye, N.Y. There were about 200 of us at the meeting—board members, spouses, life partners, and UAHC staff. We studied and worshipped together, and we discussed everything imaginable. Congressmember Steven Solarz spoke about the Persian Gulf. A State Department official, himself a survivor and a native of Hungary, gave an insider's impression of the situation in Eastern Europe. As an old Peace Corps volunteer, I was delighted to learn that Reform Judaism now has a Corps of Service to the Jewish People. Volunteers will go to Jewish communities all over the world, not to start congregations—the World Union for Progressive Judaism does that—but to support nursery schools, clinics and day centers, and programs for the Jewish elderly. Jewish life is returning with renewed strength in Eastern Europe, after long years of oppression. A fact-finding group will be in Budapest, Bucharest, and Prague this spring, to see what we might offer our sisters and brothers in the new democracies.

The board meeting ended Sunday, and the UAHC AIDS Committee met all day Monday. Committee members include rabbis, health professionals, educators, civil rights attorneys, and other committed Jews from all over the United States and Canada. It's heartening to realize how much is being done by congregations and individuals, sometimes in the most unexpected places. Beginning in January, the committee will publish a quarterly newsletter, letting synagogues and rabbis know what's happening in our movement in the fight against AIDS, and what they might do. Most don't have the experience and human resources that we have in San

Francisco, but they make up for it with compassion, dedication and creativity.

Looking ahead to the November 1991 Baltimore biennial, we asked for a number of workshops on AIDS, and for a prominent time in the convention to recognize an AIDS activist, as we have honored former Surgeon General C. Everett Koop and Dr. Matilda Krim in

Continued on page 9

UAHC Biennial

Our congregation is a member of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. The UAHC will hold a Biennial Convention in Monterey on February 8-10 at the Monterey Sheraton Hotel.

The convention will offer 21 workshops on topics including outreach, social action, AIDS, congregation staff relations, leadership development, and our relationship to Israel. Virtually every aspect of synagogue activity will be addressed during the conference.

You may indicate your interest and obtain further information by contacting the office.

*Children's Chavurah
presents*

**How to Talk to Your
Kids about the
Homophobic World**

*A Program and
Family Potluck*

**Saturday, January 12
10 am - 12:30 pm
In the Sanctuary**

*Childcare will be provided
during the adult program for
children not attending Kadimah.
Pre-registration for childcare
is required. Phone 334-7635 to
sign up and receive potluck
"instructions."*

**Supported in part by a grant
from Jewish Community
Federation**

December Va'ad Report

The December Va'ad meeting was spent addressing the biggest challenge the 1990 Va'ad has faced to date: the projected \$26,000 budget deficit for the current year. Before we tackled that serious subject, Rabbi Kahn led us in D'var Torah with discussion of the laws of Chanukah. He also informed the Va'ad about a new UAHC program for para-rabbis, beginning next summer.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Eric Keitel reported on the special meeting held to address the budget crisis facing the congregation. The agenda for that meeting covered two major topics, the first being what steps to take in light of this year's projected deficit. Several proposals were approved in concept at that meeting, and the results will be refined by the Finance Committee and brought to the Va'ad for approval at the January meeting. Following that Va'ad meeting, a special congregational meeting will be called for the first weekend of January 1991, where the congregation will be asked to approve the measures passed by the Va'ad.

Our fiscal situation can be addressed in two ways: by increasing revenues, and by cutting expenses. In the area of increasing revenues, a proposal for a special assessment had been approved at the special meeting. Based on the Finance Committee's recommendation, the Va'ad approved a motion that each adult member of the congregation pay a special assessment by March 1, 1991, with the amount to be based on income.

In the area of cutting expenses, one major area in which savings can be realized is the *Jewish Gaily Forward*. There was a lengthy discussion weighing the value of the newsletter as publicity and for the connection with our members, other readers and the larger community, against the savings of approximately \$1,000 per issue if we publish on a bi-monthly schedule for the next several months. A motion was passed concerning the remaining six months of this fiscal year, to publish three bi-monthly issues of the newsletter—January, March and May—with three short updates/calendars to be produced in the CSZ office and mailed to members and paid subscribers in the interim months of February, April and June.

Looking ahead to 1991 revenues, the Va'ad spent a great deal of time on a proposal to change the congregation's dues structure from a recommended 1 percent to a tiered schedule with minimum dues at a set amount per tier. This would help us to achieve conformity with UAHC guidelines of having dues cover 80 percent of expenses. We raise just over 50 percent at Sha'ar Zahav with our current dues structure, and this is the main factor for the current deficit. A motion was passed to approve this tiered dues structure as proposed by the Finance Committee.

In addition to these major proposals, cost-cutting measures in many other areas were identified and presented by the Finance Committee, most of which will be put into effect immediately. Grant programs for Kadimah scholarships and other synagogue activities will be looked into as well. Va'ad members ended this part of the meeting hoping that the congregation will carefully consider the proposals to be brought forward at the January meeting and approve them for the sake of the synagogue's financial health.

The Va'ad covered routine business

as well during this meeting. Motions were passed to donate the money in the Sanctuary Bond Fund to the Jewish Sanctuary Coalition, and to pay for the recently purchased folding chairs from the Building Fund rather than the General Fund. Brett Trueman reviewed the monthly financial statement, and read the names of members who, not having made dues pledges for the current year, are no longer in good standing and will be dropped from membership if they do not respond to the treasurer within 30 days. Mike Rankin, our UAHC liaison, reported on UAHC activities, and asked for recommendations for regional board members. The Va'ad approved a policy regarding acceptance of original works of art, and voted five individuals and one family in as members. On behalf of the Bikkur Cholim Committee, Allen Harris presented a motion to disburse money from the AIDS Fund to the AIDS Emergency Fund, AIDS Food Bank and Jewish Family and Children's Service AIDS Project, and it passed unanimously. The December meeting ended just past 9:30 pm, followed by a closed session for Va'ad members.

—Gail Friedlander

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Call David Gellman
415/621-2966

1540 Market Street, Suite 490, San Francisco, CA 94102

AIDS Quilt in Israel

(Continued from page 1)

health fund, paid for the printing of thousands of posters promoting the tour. (For a \$10 donation to the Israel AIDS Task Force, you can acquire one by contacting me at 824-4449.) Also, portions of the quilt appeared in the Knesset during meetings of the Health Ministry.

Among the panels displayed in Tel Aviv, Haifa, Nazareth and Jerusalem (where the tour closed December 18), were several of CSZ members, the UAHC panel, and those of women and children, in keeping with the 1990 World AIDS Day theme of women and children with AIDS. Also, Israelis added 20 panels of their own—19 of which contain only the first name of the deceased. (Perhaps, following the education and compassion engendered from the quilt tour, some of the panel makers will be moved to add the last name.) Members of CSZ, Miki Goralsky and Lisa Ginsburg, will be producing a video of the tour for future distribution.

Almost 400 individuals and organizations in North America contributed funds to make this historic event a reality. Special thanks go to the UAHC AIDS Committee (co-chaired by our Mike Rankin) and to CSZ for its early contribution from its AIDS Fund.

—Ron Lezell

Now Wanted: Torah Readers

Can you read Torah? Can you chant? Are you just yearning for the right place and time to exercise your skills and show the world your stuff?

The Ritual Committee is seeking CSZ members who can comfortably and proficiently read or chant Torah for our Shabbat and festival services.

We're also looking for members who want to learn Torah reading and cantillation for a potential Torah reading and cantillation class at CSZ. Any level of interest is welcome. Here's the chance you've been waiting for! Call the office or Larry Wexler (523-6775) to star on the bimah today.

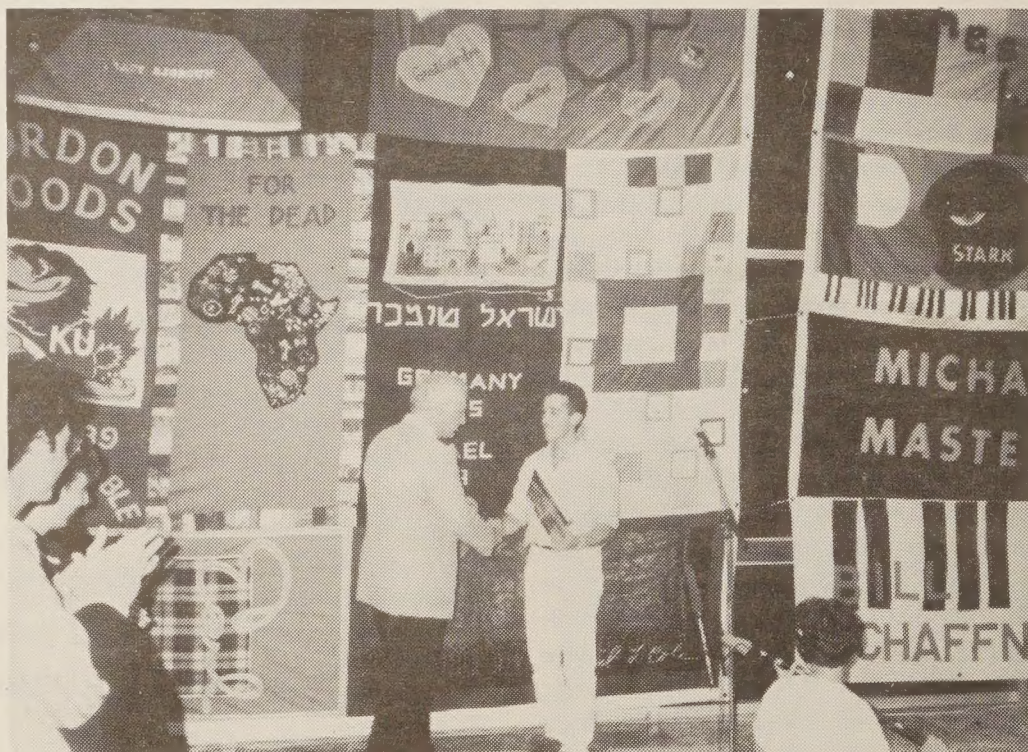
Yahrzeits

Note: In keeping with new budgetary restrictions, yahrzeits will no longer be published in the newsletter.



CSZ Panels: Alan Ellis, Ron Gertz, Mark Landsberger and Mark Feldman.

PHOTO BY RON LEZELL



Tel Aviv Mayor Lahat and Danny Kent, the Israeli organizer of the quilt tour.

PHOTO BY RON LEZELL

Tikkun Talk

A discussion group to discuss the topics and concerns in *Tikkun* magazine will begin meeting on January 9 at 7:30 at the home of Marion Rubin, 36 Iris Ave., San Francisco.

The first topic discussed will be "Judaism and Women's Sexuality." The facilitator will be CSZ member Susan Sobel-Feldman.

For more information, please call Marion at 668-3404. The group plans to meet monthly.

Classifieds

MG HOUSE AND OFFICE CLEANING. Call Marta, 282-7407

SHARE RENTAL. Comfortable 2 bedroom flat in Noe Valley available February 1. Clean, quiet, many amenities. W/D. Non-smoker preferred. No pets. \$475/mo. Contact Allen at 282-3577.

PACKING—OFFICE/HOME. Experienced, careful, affordable. Flexible hours and free estimates. Recommended by movers and realtors. Cardinal Packing. 285-1521.

FOR SALE: 1986 red Mazda RX7. 42K miles. Excellent condition. \$7,500. 239-8180.

Oneg Sponsors

During November onegs were sponsored by the following generous people:

- 9 Jonathan Goldman, in celebration of his 40th birthday on November 14.
- 30 Victor Zonana, in honor of his new job in New York

All you have to do to sponsor an oneg is to think of the occasion and contact the synagogue office (861-6932). The cost of sponsoring an oneg is \$50. You can also provide the food, flowers, etc. for a more personal touch.

UAHC "Old Country"

(Continued from page 6)

years past. We were given everything we asked for, and more. "We are with you all the way," UAHC leaders told us, "until the epidemic is over. Just let us know what we can do." That we did.

These, then, are some of the issues on the Reform Jewish agenda. They are Jewish concerns, of course—but not exclusively. Peace, world hunger, justice and civil rights—all are Jewish issues, and have been for 40 centuries, whether they affect Jews directly or not.

Every member of Sha'ar Zahav is a part of this work. If you want to learn more, or better yet, get involved—speak to the leaders of our congregation. Attend our regional convention in Monterey February 8–10. You'll have an opportunity to meet those who determine the direction and programs of Reform Judaism. Tell them what you think is important, and how we might solve the problems that so trouble our world. Call Rabbi Kahn, Merry Luskin, or me at the synagogue for details. The whole "convention package" is expensive—but there are ways to make it less so.

Looking back at those five chilly days in New York, I'm proud of the work we did there. Above all, I'll remember the *tshuvah* of one board member, and the courage of a cantor who fought for the right of his family to be accepted in his synagogue. By such acts, one by one, do we bring *shlemut v'shalom*—wholeness and peace

—Mike Rankin

Synagogue Information

Rabbi Yoel Kahn

Officers:

President, Merry Luskin
Vice President, Allan Gold
Treasurer, Brett Trueman
Recorder, Gail Friedlander

Office Personnel:

Manager, Mark Pressler

Va'ad (Board) Members:

Claudia Bernard
 Ann Biderman
 Tiela Chalmers
 Steve Elman
 Lisa Katz
 Jeffrey Miller
 Alita Rosenfeld
 Judy Schwartz
 Lin Turner

Committee Chairs:

Bikkur Cholim, by committee
Brotherhood, Eric Keitel
Building, Jeffrey Miller
Bylaws, Edward Pollack
Cemetery, Richard Inlander
Children's Chavurah, Aaron Cooper
Cookbook Project, Robin Leonard
Education, Elliot Gordon
Finance, Ben Schalit
Gift Shop, by committee
Israel Chavurah, Ron Lezell
Long-Range Planning, Tiela Chalmers & Daniel Chesir

Membership, Nancy-Carol Adler
Newsletter, Howard Blechman
Oneg, Lin Turner
Past Presidents Council, Don Albert
Personnel, by committee
Public Relations, Sharyn Saslasky
Rabbi Liaison, Aaron Cooper
Religious School, Ellen Gierson & Peter Vishniac
Ritual, Larry Wexler
Social Action, Jonathan Mesinger & Lisa Katz
Social Program, Marc Mencher
Women's Chavurah, Ann Biderman

Office Hours: Mon. 8–5; Tues. 8–4:30; Wed., Thu. 8–2:30; Fri. 8–3. Phones will be answered Mon.–Fri. 10–2.

Services are held every Friday evening beginning at 8:15 pm (except as noted), with an Oneg Shabbat following services. Services are generally held on the second and last Saturday of each month at 10:30 am—check calendar for each month.

Library Hours: Open during office hours, on Saturdays from 3 to 5 pm, and on the second and fourth Mondays each month from 7:30 to 10 pm.

Gift Shop Hours: First and third Tuesdays, 3–5 pm; second and fourth Mondays, 7:30–10 pm; Fridays, 7:30–8:05 pm

Emergency Number: In an emergency, the Congregation can be contacted outside of office hours by calling 420-9718.

Member of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (Richard Inlander, Mike Rankin, Liaisons) and of the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations (Eric Keitel, Liaison).

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav (Congregation of the Golden Gate) is located in the Upper Market District of San Francisco at 220 Danvers at Caselli, which is one block south of the intersection of 18th and Market streets. By public transport, take MUNI bus 33 Stanyan to 18th and Danvers and walk one block south on Danvers to Caselli.

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Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

שַׁעַר זָהָב

220 DANVERS AT CASELLI, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94114

(415) 861-6932

JANUARY

טובת - שבט

1 Tuesday
15 Tevet
New Year's Day

2 Wednesday
16 Tevet
• 7:15pm, Prayerbook Hebrew
• 8:30pm, Introduction to Judaism

3 Thursday
17 Tevet
• 7pm, Long-Range Planning

4 Friday
18 Tevet
• 7:30-8:05pm, Gift shop open
• 8:15pm, Services, Shemot, Mike Rankin and Tiela Chalmers

5 Saturday
19 Tevet

6 Sunday
20 Tevet
• 1pm, Special Congregational Meeting

7 Monday
21 Tevet
• 6:15pm, Library open
• 7:30pm, Education Committee Meeting

8 Tuesday
22 Tevet

9 Wednesday
23 Tevet
• 7:15pm, Prayerbook Hebrew
• 7:30pm, Tikkun Talk, 36 Iris Ave., SF
• 8:30pm, Introduction to Judaism

10 Thursday
24 Tevet

11 Friday
25 Tevet
• 7:30-8:05pm, Gift shop open
• 8:15pm, Services, Va'era, Daniel Chesir and Rabbi Kahn

12 Saturday
26 Tevet
• 10:30am, Morning services

13 Sunday
27 Tevet

14 Monday
28 Tevet
• 6:15pm, Library open
• 6:30pm, Va'ad meeting
• 7:30-10pm, Gift shop open

15 Tuesday
29 Tevet

16 Wednesday
1 Shevat

17 Thursday
2 Shevat
• 7:30pm, Bikkur Cholim

18 Friday
3 Shevat
• 7:30-8:05pm, Gift shop open
• 8:15pm, Services, Bo, Scott Mezistrano and Gary Sokol; talk by Meir Azari after services

19 Saturday
4 Shevat
• 10:30am, Shabbat Shirah
• 12:30pm, Twice Blessed workshop

20 Sunday
5 Shevat

21 Monday
6 Shevat
Martin Luther King, Jr., Day
• 6:15pm, Library open

22 Tuesday
7 Shevat

23 Wednesday
8 Shevat

24 Thursday
9 Shevat
• 6:30pm, Ritual Committee

25 Friday
10 Shevat
• 6:30pm, Shabbat dinner
• 7:30-8:05pm, Gift shop open
• 8:15pm, Services, Beshalach, Lyssa Friedman, Daniel Chesir, and Rabbi Kahn; talk by New Israel Fund Director Gila Svirsky after services

26 Saturday
11 Shevat
• 10:30am, Morning services, Rabbi Kahn and Kathy Simon

27 Sunday
12 Shevat
• 10:30am, Kaiser brunch, Kaiser Hospital, SF
• 1:30pm, Building work party

28 Monday
13 Shevat
• 6:15pm, Library open
• 7-10pm, Gift shop open

29 Tuesday
14 Shevat
• 7:30pm, Kabbalah class
• 7:45pm, Prayers and Prayerbooks, Rabbi Kahn

30 Wednesday
15 Shevat
Tu B'Shevat
• 7:15pm, Continuing Prayerbook Hebrew

31 Thursday
16 Shevat
• 6:30pm, Ritual Committee
• 7:30pm, Social Action Committee

1 Friday, February 1
17 Shevat
• 8:15pm, Services, Yitro, Susan Gelmis and Scott Mezistrano

Note: Gray areas indicate religious services.

Condolences

To Marion Trentman on the loss of her uncle, Steven Trentman, and on the loss of her friend, Dr. Robert Hofstedter

To Catherine Dodd on the loss of her grandmother, Elizabeth Lohmann

To Sharon Saslafsky on the loss of her friend John Mahoub

Dr. Diane Sabin

CHIROPRACTOR

3892 24th Street, San Francisco, CA 94114 415/826-8300